

## **Remarks Following a Meeting With Organizations That Support the United States Military in Iraq and Afghanistan**

*October 20, 2006*

I've had an uplifting and heartwarming conversation with fellow citizens of all ages from across our country who are supporting our troops. These folks don't really care about politics; what they care about is how best to send a strong message to the men and women who wear our uniform that America supports them.

And so we've had examples of people who started web pages to get different supplies to send to troops who are—who need a care package; to a woman who started a group of people to sew garments to help the wounded recover faster; to a guy who helped start video conferencing capabilities so that loved ones can share big moments in their lives together, even though one is in combat; to a child who started treasure hunts to raise money to help kids go to school. It's a remarkable country when we have people who decide to step up and help men and women who are serving their country in a time of need.

And I want to thank you all for coming, and I appreciate what you're doing. [Americasupportsyou.mil](http://Americasupportsyou.mil) is a web site where our fellow citizens can volunteer to help. You can become a part of a group and find out ways that you can support our men and women in uniform. These are brave, courageous people who deserve the full support of the American citizenry.

So I want to thank you all for coming. I appreciate you being here. Thanks very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:35 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House.

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### **Digest of Other White House Announcements**

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The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest an-

nounced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

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#### **October 14**

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC. He and Mrs. Bush then traveled to Arlington, VA. Later, they traveled to Camp David, MD.

#### **October 15**

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

The President declared an emergency in New York and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts in the area struck by a lake-effect snowstorm on October 12 and continuing.

#### **October 16**

In the morning, the President had separate telephone conversations with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of India and President Nuri al-Maliki of Iraq. Later, he had an intelligence briefing. Then, in the Oval Office, he met with Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew of Singapore.

Later in the morning, the President participated in an interview with Bill O'Reilly of FOX News, for later broadcast.

During the day, the President had a briefing on the October 15 earthquake and aftershocks in Hawaii.

The President declared a major disaster in Alaska and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, flooding, landslides, and mudslides on August 15–25.

#### **October 17**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Oval Office, he participated in a bill signing ceremony for H.R. 5122, the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007, which was assigned Public Law No. 109–364. He then met with United Nations Secretary-General-designate Ban Ki-Moon.

The President declared a major disaster in Hawaii and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the

area struck by an earthquake on October 15 and related aftershocks.

### **October 18**

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt. Later, he had an intelligence briefing. He then traveled to Greensboro, NC, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Michelle Gilmore.

In the afternoon, at Stamey's restaurant, the President had lunch with community leaders. Later, he toured Waldo C. Falkener Elementary School. He then traveled to Randleman, NC.

Later in the afternoon, the President participated in an interview with George Stephanopoulos of ABC News, for later broadcast. He then traveled to Greensboro, NC, where, at a private residence, he attended a Republican National Committee dinner.

In the evening, the President returned to Washington, DC.

### **October 19**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Avoca, PA, where, at the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Naomi Alamar. He then traveled to La Plume, PA.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Clarks Summit, PA, where he visited patrons at Manny's Ice Cream & Milk. Later he traveled to Richmond, VA, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer William "Robert" Floyd, Sr. He then stopped by the Pumpkin Patch and visited with owner William F. Gallmeyer.

In the evening, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President-elect Felipe Calderon of Mexico to the White House on November 9.

The President announced his intention to nominate Katherine Almquist to be Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (Bureau of Africa).

The President announced that he has recess appointed Richard E. Stickler as Assist-

ant Secretary of Mine Safety at the Department of Labor.

The President announced that he has recess appointed Jeffrey R. Brown as a member of the Social Security Advisory Board.

### **October 20**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, at the Department of Health and Human Services, he participated in a roundtable discussion on Medicare. He then participated in an interview with Kevin Freking of the Associated Press.

The White House announced that the President will host Secretary General Jakob Gijsbert "Jaap" de Hoop Scheffer of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization at the White House on October 27.

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## **Nominations Submitted to the Senate**

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NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

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## **Checklist of White House Press Releases**

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The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

### **Released October 15**

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to New York

### **Released October 16**

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Tony Snow

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 138, H.R. 479, H.R. 3508, H.R. 4902, H.R. 5094, H.R. 5160, H.R. 5381, and S. 2562

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Alaska